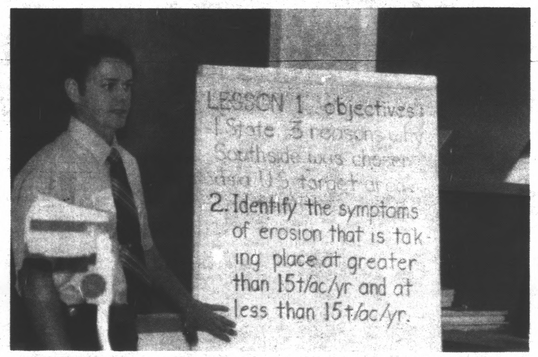
DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST Eugene Morris (right) explains to southside vo-ag teachers that contour strip farming reduces erosion by 75 percent.


LESSON 1 objectives:
2. Identify the symptoms of erosion that is taking place at greater than 15t/ac/yr and at less than 15t/ac/yr.

BOBBY WHITESCARVER, project coordinator for the Piedmont Bright Leaf Erosion Control Area reviews lesson objectives to southside vo-ag teachers. Whitescarver was one of six instructors at recent erosion control workshop held for vo-ag teachers.

Vo-ag teachers learn about cropland erosion

Thirty-five southside vo-ag teachers attended cropland erosion control workshops held recently in Victoria and Chatham. The workshops were sponsored by the USDA Soil Conservation Service (SCS) as part of the Piedmont Bright Leaf Erosion Control Project.

A strong educational thrust to stop excess erosion is underway. Appomattox County's vo-ag instructors A.H. Carter, B.F. Sauls and B. K. Waddell were among the participants.

The workshop participants received a crash course on why the erosion is so bad in Southside and on how to stop it.

Southside was chosen as one of 35 national target areas called the Piedmont Bright Leaf Erosion Control Area because of its intense cropping systems, the fragile soils already present and the average high erosion rate of 18 tons/ac/year on cropland.

Solutions Given

"No-till farming is the most practical and most cost effective conservation practice available to farmers," said Bobby Whitescarver, Soil Conservationist with SCS who was one of the six instructors at the workshops.

The conservationist added, "no-till can reduce erosion by 95% but that's not why most farmers have switched to no-till. Surveys show that most farmers switch to no-till because it saves time."

One survey that Whitescarver referred to said that no-till will allow a farmer to work 71 percent more land in the same amount of time it would take to conventionally prepare and plant crops.

Participants also learned about the process of erosion and how SCS personnel predict how much soil can be lost from fields under different management systems.

The workshops were concluded with a tour of an area farm where conservation was being carried out. the Tryon Nevin farm in Lunenburg County was one. Contouring, stripcropping and crop rotations were the highlight on this tobacco farm. It was pointed out by Eugene Morris, the District Conservationist for the county, that contour farming alone can reduce erosion by 50%.

It is hoped that through efforts like these workshops and other various activities that the high erosion rates in southside can be reduced.

Jordan Baptist Senior Choir to practice Aug. 18

The Senior Choir will practice Thursday night, Aug. 18, at 7:30 p.m. at Jordan Baptist Church. Each member is being asked to be present.

The Men's Club will be selling chitterling plates and other food beginning at noon Saturday, Aug. 20. Come by to purchase your lunch and supper.

The Ladies Club will meet Saturday night at 7:30 p.m.

The service that was scheduled for Sunday at 7:30 p.m. has been postponed until a later date.

The Young Adult Choir will practice Tuesday night at 7 p.m. Each member is being asked to please be there at 7 p.m.

Church meeting will be held Tuesday night at 8 p.m.

Booker, Webb attend conference

Pattie Booker, Alice Kyle District Junior Director, and Sheila Webb, President of the Appomattox Junior Woman's Club recently represented their club at the VFWC State conference. The conference, held at The Homestead on August 9-10, consisted of workshops encompassing such areas as membership, federation awareness, and a club president's clinic.

Representatives from 269 general clubs and 111 junior clubs attended the two-day conference.

Garden Club plans social

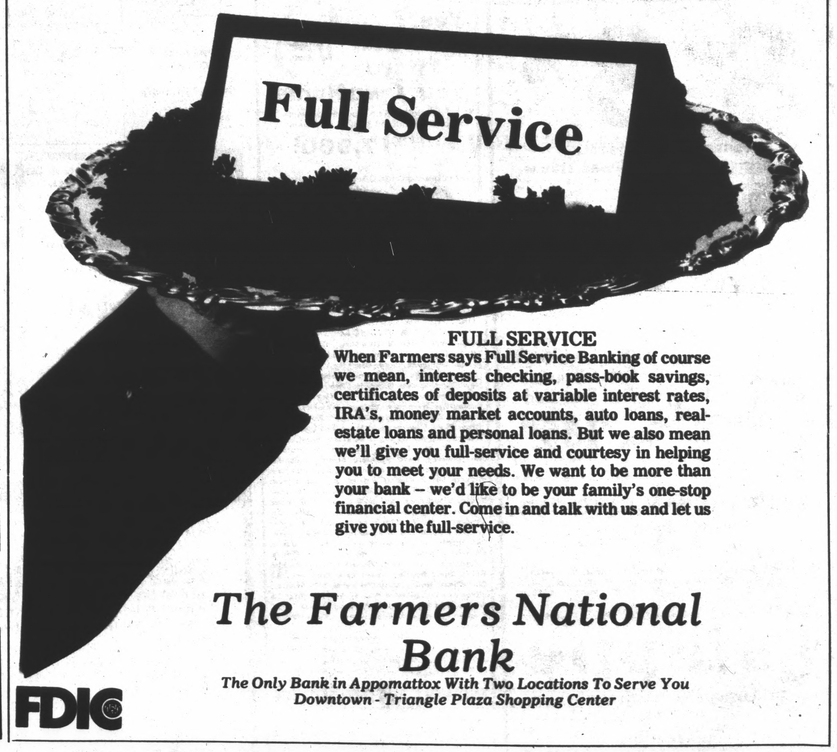
The annual social of the Appomattox Garden Club will be held on August 22 at 7:30 p.m. in the garden at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Robert A. Sears on South Church St.

The social committee composed of Mrs. Kenneth Powell, Mrs. Gerald Wilbun, co-chairmen, Mrs. Gary Cuccio, and Mrs. William Burger will be in charge of arrangements.

All club members and their guests are cordially invited to attend the party.

ANNIVERSARY SALE
Through August
★PLACE YOUR ORDERS NOW★
$1.00 per pound hanging weight
(PLUS 18c for cutting, wrapping, and freezing) Plus Slaughter Fee
COUPON
THIS COUPON IS WORTH
5¢ per pound off beef
2¢ per pound off processing
COUPON
SCHROCK'S SLAUGHTER HOUSE
GLADYS, VIRGINIA
Phone 283-5400

MAY WE SERVE YOU?



Full Service

FULL SERVICE
When Farmers says Full Service Banking of course we mean, interest checking, pass-book savings, certificates of deposits at variable interest rates, IRA's, money market accounts, auto loans, real-estate loans and personal loans. But we also mean we'll give you full-service and courtesy in helping you to meet your needs. We want to be more than your bank – we'd like to be your family's one-stop financial center. Come in and talk with us and let us give you the full-service.

The Farmers National Bank
The Only Bank in Appomattox With Two Locations To Serve You
Downtown - Triangle Plaza Shopping Center
FDIC

Inside this week: school homeroom C

TIMES-VIRGINIAN
A LIVELY WEEKLY NEWSPAPER AT HISTORIC APPOMATTOX COURT HOUSE, VIRGINIA
Single-Copy Price: 25 Cents
Volume 92-Number 34 | Deadline: 2 p.m. Tuesday | Appomattox, (Va.) - Times-Virginian - August 25, 1983 | Phone: 352-8215 | One Section - 12 Pages

AUG 19 VIRGINIA STATE LIBRARY

Kids need their shots

Appomattox County Superintendent of Schools Lloyd Walton said this week that students in the public school system who do not have documentation proving that they have had all immunization shots required by the state may not be allowed to attend school until such proof is provided.

Walton said Monday that school nurses checked the records of all students in the public school system last spring to see if the immunization requirements had been met.

Letters were sent to the parents of students who, according to the school records, did not have complete documented proof of the immunizations.

"If the children do not have documented proof of immunization when school starts Monday, we will notify their parents immediately," Walton said. He added that if a student believes that he or she has had the proper immunizations but does not have documentation, school officials will meet with the parents to try and ascertain if the student's immunization status fulfills the state's requirements.

Students whose immunization records are deficient in areas not considered critical may be granted the privilege of attending school on a temporary basis, Walton said. The nurse and principal of each school will work with the individual's parents to make arrangements for immunizations and/or school attendance.

"We will meet with the parents and try to be as reasonable as possible," Walton said. "But we have to comply with the law."

The state law requiring documented proof of immunizations against polio, measles, rubella, diptheria, whooping cough, tetanus and mumps went into effect in July.

Walton said that only parents of students who did not appear to have had all the required shots received notices from the school board following the nurses' research last spring.

"We want to emphasize that any parents who did not receive a notice last spring can assume that their children's immunization records are up to date," Walton concluded.

A POWER LINE along Route 460 west of Pamplin fell Monday, causing a roadside brush fire and knocking out current to portions of Appomattox for a brief period. The fire, which began to work its way into the woods along the road, was extinguished by members of the Pamplin and Appomattox Volunteer Fire Departments. (Photo by Bill Sherrod)

Summer's crop losses mounting in county

This summer's intense heat and prolonged drought have caused more than discomfort among the citizens of Appomattox County. As of this week, estimates of crop damage in Appomattox County alone total more than $1.5 million.

That figure is based on this year's projected crop yield, as compared with the three-year average crop yield for corn, soybeans and dark tobacco in Appomattox County.

Jim Smith, agricultural extension agent for Appomattox County, estimates the corn grain loss at $785,000, the corn silage loss at $372,000, the soybean loss at $140,000, and the dark tobacco loss at $240,000.

In addition, Smith notes, there have been considerable losses in hay production and pastureland production, but it is difficult to assign a dollar amount to these losses.

"This is the worst corn crop I have ever seen," notes Smith in reference to this year's crop. "Some farmers have already cut the corn and are feeding it to their cattle green."

An additional problem created by the poor crop yield this year will be smaller-than-normal calves born to beef cattle. With pastures estimated at between 90 and 95 percent useless and a rapidly diminishing supply of hay for livestock feed, there simply is not enough forage to maintain quality stock in most of the county's beef herds.

The pastureland situation in Appomattox County is so bad that the federal government has agreed to allow farmers to graze their cattle on Payment In Kind (PIK) and Acreage Reduction Program (ARP) land. June Thornhill of the Appomattox ASCS office says that producers may graze their own livestock on their own PIK and ARP lands if they owned the cattle as of Aug. 1, and if they file a request at the local ASCS office.

Ironically, the growing season started on a very positive note this year, with above average rainfall in May and June. May's rainfall, at 3.77 inches, was more than the 3.36-inch average for that month, as was June's 4.61 inches, compared with the average 3.17 inches of rain for the month of June in Appomattox County.

But July's rainfall totaled only 2.01 inches, less than half of the normal amount, 4.33 inches. As of Monday, Aug. 22, there had been only 1.19 inches of rain in Appomattox for the month. The normal rainfall figure for August is 3.86 inches.

So, as of the beginning of this week, Appomattox County had received a total of 11.58 inches of rainfall since May. The normal figure for the May-through-August period is 14.92 inches.

While the four-month precipitation deficit may not seem great -- 3.34 inches total -- that figure takes on a new dimension when the high temperatures for this summer are considered.

Smith notes that the number of days in June with temperatures of 90 degrees or more totaled six. But in July, there were 17 days with temperatures of 90 degrees or more, and as of press time Tuesday, there had been 17 days in August with temperatures of at least 90 degrees, with no relief in sight.

"The high temperatures coupled with the dry weather have compounded the problems we've had this summer," notes Smith. "The high temperatures increase the rate of respiration in plants, causing loss of moisture in the plant tissue."

And, according to Smith, the state climatologist predicts that the drought will continue through September. "Right now, we're estimating a 50 percent loss in hay crop this year," Smith notes. "We had a pretty good spring hay harvest, but there appears to be absolutely no prospect for a fall hay crop."

Substantial rainfall now might help some of the cron crop, Smith says. "In some instances, the ears would elongate, resulting in increased lonnage. But even with good rainfall now, it's not likely that you would get any additional ears on the stalks."

Smith adds that rain now would help some of the soybean crop as well. "High temperatures cause damage to the soybean plants when they are blooming," Smith says. "A good rainfall right now would help some of the soybeans which were planted after the small-grain harvest."

A high percentage of the flue-cured tobacco in the county can be irrigated, according to Smith. But with the drought and continued high temperatures, many of the farm ponds used in irrigation have been exhausted. Only about 20 percent of the county's dark tobacco can be irrigated, Smith adds, and the average crop yield for this year is projected at between 750 and 850 pounds per acre, compared with the normal yield of 1350 pounds per acre. This will result in a dollar loss to county dark tobacco growers estimated at approximately $240,000, based on current market prices.

As Smith points out, the situation is bleak indeed for farmers. "We are rapidly approaching the point of no return" for many farmers in Appomattox County, Smith says.

And consumers, too, in a less direct way, will feel the pinch of this summer's cruel weather. "The problems agriculture has faced will likely show up in the form of high prices in the supermarket, possibly as early as this fall," Smith concludes.

Cooperative effort sought in Appomattox

By FRANCES ARBITT

"People helping people"..... that's what it's all about, the Appomattox County Department of Social Services, and Social Services in Virginia.

"There are so many people who need help," commented Horace W. Coleman Jr., Chairman of the Board of the Appomattox County Department of Social Services, "not just dollar help but other needs. I believe these needs could be met if agencies, organizations, churches would combine energies in a concentrated effort."

Nutrition needs for the indigent and elderly in Appomattox County are surfacing in various areas of the county, and planning to meet these needs is underway.

Meeting with the Appomattox County Department of Social Services Board on Wednesday, Aug. 17 were Melvin Winters, Executive Director, Appomattox Baptist Association; Francis Elliott, recently appointed board member, Central Virginia Commission on Aging and Commodity Foods Coordinator; Randy Williams, Commodity Foods Supervisor; Richard Martin, Adult Services Social Worker; Eva Moore, Social Work Supervisor; Mary Walker, Senior Eligibility Worker and FEMA Supervisor; Barry Elder, Social Concerns Committee Chairman, Appomattox Baptist Association and Food Stamp Worker; Jenny Fratrick, Volunteer Coordinator; Agnes Erwin, Office Manager, and Virginia M. Babcock, Director. Board members present were Horace W. Coleman, Jr. Chairman, Louise L. Martin, Vice-Chairman and W. Herbert Richardson, Board Member.

By the joining together of public, and non-profit agencies and concerned private citizens, the elderly in Appomattox County can be provided services that will prevent institutionalization.

"The Department of Social Services and the Long-Term Care Committee for Appomattox County will recommend to the State Department of the Commission on Aging at the Public Hearing on August 24 that the Regional Commission on Aging Office continue to coordinate services to the elderly," commented Babcock.

"The Department of Social Services will request sub-contracts with the Commission on Aging for an expansion of nutrition needs in the county, telephone assurance, transportation for the elderly and personal care and home aide servers who can go into the homes and offer the services to the elderly that will keep them at home and prevent these elderly from having to be institutionalized," Babcock said.

Francis Elliott, Commodity Foods Coordinator, and newly appointed member to the Board of the Commission on Aging is keenly aware of the nutrition needs that are surfacing in other areas of Appomattox County. He has located and purchased a large walk-in freezer which will be used to store the commodity foods and frozen meals that will be delivered to the county.

"There are some elderly who aren't physically able to prepare a hot meal for themselves," commented Coleman. "Others just don't and still others don't have the facilities for storage."

"Frozen meals will be used for shut-ins who are unable to cook for themselves. This will assure that the handicapped elderly who remain in their homes will have at least one hot meal a day," said Babcock.

"An appeal is made to community organizations and to individuals who are concerned with the welfare of their fellowmen to donate towards the purchase price of the walk-in freezer," said Babcock.

WOW plans 'Fun Day'

"Woodmen Fun Day" will be held at Holiday Lake 4-H Club August 27 from 12:30 p.m. until 8 p.m.

Woodmen of the World members and families are urged to make plans to attend. Meals will begin at 4:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. The crowning of Miss Woodmen for 1983 will be a featured event.

Lions plan ladies' night

The Appomattox Lion's Club will hold their 1983 Summer Steak Cookout and Ladies Night on Saturday, August 27 at the WOW building, beginning at 6:00 p.m.

Each member is urged to note the date, time and place and bring his lady, steak knife, fork, and spoon and a good appetite.

Father Darkleaf

By CALVIN ROBINSON

Something different. I planted a package of seed for miniature sunflowers. Dry weather helped the project. Monday morning I found three in bloom, the tallest about, three inches and the bloom an inch and a half. Which suggests that this may be a record year for miniature plants. Ah yes, and some years ago some friends from Baltimore were in Appomattox and brought me an Hawaiian Hibiscus. Not only has it survived, but it is in bloom. Lovely red bloom, about seven inches wide.

* * *

Daytime thermometer readings are at record highs. Some reports up to 106. At 6:30 last evening I had 103 in the shade of my back porch. Oddly enough, I do not complain of the heat. Merely eat another pint of ice cream!

* * *

Williams, Arizona, is known as the "Gateway to the Grand Canyon." When we were there in the 1950's, there was an excellent eating place known as Rod's Steak House. The menu was very special and I just found one in the disarray on my desk. Top sirloin steak, $3.00. Filet Mignon, $3.95, French Fried Jumbo Shrimp, $1.75. Rainbow Trout, 11 oz., $2.00. Ice cream, 15c. Etc.

* * *

An auction sale Saturday brought out the largest crowd I've seen in Appomattox since Railroad Day. I managed to find a place to park my car only four blocks away.

* * *

They have been in Appomattox for several years, but I just met Dr. and Mrs. Hilton G. Bonney, Jr. Dr. Bonney is a dentist. And his father, Mrs. Bonney was from Fairfax, Dr. Bonney and father from Norfolk. Pleasant visit. Come again.

* * *

Thanks to the Everett Conners for some splendid tomatoes. We add them to the breakfast menu.

* * *

Had not seen our longtime friends, Mr. and Mrs. J. Rufus Cawthorne for a long time. Saw them, and Steve, at the auction sale mentioned above. The Cawthornes have moved to the Lee-Grant Apartments here in town. Welcome.

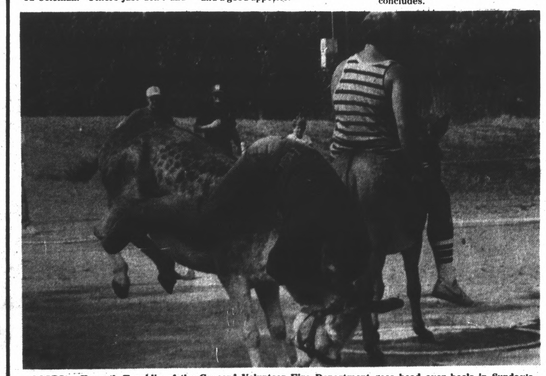
* * *

A reader just phoned to urge that water and food be provided for pets and strays during hot weather. Said had found a starving puppy, abandoned. Under care the animal was responding. I have no pets, but this reader has a good point. Water for birds during a dry spell is another thing to be remembered.

And an odd name. There is a Looking Glass Road in Chesterfield County. Saw it mentioned in a Richmond paper. And in another paper read a long article about the fine things in Charleston, S.C. Heavens to Betsy, did not even mention She-Crab Soup!

* * *

Baseball fans who are for the New York Yankees are holding their heads a little higher these days. And football is ready to take over in the sports world. But next Monday is the big day, for the local schools open. Or maybe I should say that every day is a big day and we are proud to share in it, if only from the sidelines. Thanks for reading and seeya around.



OOOPS!....Kenneth Franklin of the Concord Volunteer Fire Department goes head over heels in Sunday's "Donkey Baseball Game," sponsored by the ConTerra Woman's Club. The game pitted members of the Concord fire department, the "Flames," against members of the Woman's Club and the Concord Rescue Squad, the "Jack-Aces." It was a close contest, with the Flames finally edging out the Jack-Aces 7-6 in the six-inning contest. In the above photo, first baseman Bill Lindsay (striped shirt) has his back to Franklin as Jimmy Goodwin, Joe Crouch and Tommy Markham (background) look on. (Photo by Jeff Spitzer)